Soil testing laboratories in Madhya Pradesh

3836. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently established Soil Testing Laboratories at some places in Madhya Pradesh to provide soil testing facilities to the farmers of the State:

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to establish soil testing laboratories in each district headquarters of the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) There are already 33 Soil Testing Laboratories (24 Static and 9 Mobile) run by State Government and fertilizer industries. No additional Soil Testing Laboratory has been established in the State, recently.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal to establish Soil Testing Laboratory at each district headquarters. However, during 8th Plan, Government is extending financial support to States to establish Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories and also to strengthen the existing Laboratories with facilities for micro-nutrient analysis.

Unbalanced use of chemical fertilizers

3837. SHRI BHUPENDER SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Govt.'s ...nt policies relating to the prices of ...ous types of fertilizers is resulting in an unbalanced use of chemcial fertilizers?

(b) whether it is also a fact that such unbalanced use of chemical fertilizers would have serious adverse effects on soil fertility as also on the environment; and

(c) if so, what measures Govt. propose to take with a view to avoid these adverse effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) With the 10% reduction in Urea prices, the nitrogenous fertilizers have become cheaper, while with the decontrol of phosphetic and potassic fertilizers, the prices of these fertilizers have increased. Accordingly it is expected that growth in nitrogen consumption is likely to be normal. To offset the possible adverse effect on the consumption of phosphetic and potassic fertilizers, Central Government has taken up a scheme at a total cost of Rs. 340/- crores with the objective of reducing phosphatic and potassic fertilizer prices by Rs. 1,000/- per tonne and proportionate reduction in the prices of complex fertilizers. The small and marginal farmers who do not have marketable surplus are also intended to be protected under the scheme taken up at the total outlay of Rs. 500/- crores under which the state Governments have been requested to develop infrastructure for the benefit of small and marginal farmers. Government have also given substantial increase in Kharif minimum support prices.

National level organisation for natural calamities

3838. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a national level organisation with adequate statutory power to coordinate and monitor rescue, relief and rehabilitation works as and when there are National Calamities of very high magnitude;

(b) Whether Government also propose to generate Prime Minister's calamity relief revolving reserve fund to the tune of Rs. 2000/- crores or more to meet the sudden emergency needs for rescue, relief

and rehabilitation operations at the times of National Calamities of immense magnitude; and

(c) if so, what measures are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Farmers above poverty line

3839. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of agricultural families and families of small and marginal farmers which are above poverty line till September, 1992 in each State; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take for their further upliftment during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As per the latest available information, percentage of persons below the poverty line in the rural areas as per the 43rd round (1987-88) of the National Sample Survey is given below: Rest of the persons are above the poverty line.

Sl. No.	State/UT	Percentage of rural population below the poverty line during 1987-88 (Provisional)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	33.8
2.	Assam	24.5
3.	Bihar	42.7
4.	Gujarat	21.2
5.	Haryana	11.7
6.	Himachal Pradesh	9.7
7.	J & K	15.5
8.	Karnataka	35.9
9.	Kerala	16.4
10.	Madhya Pradesh	41.5
11.	Maharashtra	36.7
12.	Manipur	N.A.
13.	Meghalaya	N.A.
14.	Orissa	48.3
15.	Punjab	7.2
16.	Rajasthan	26.0
17.	Tamil Nadu	39.5
18.	Tripura	N.A.
19.	Uttar Pradesh	37.2
20.	West Bengal	30.3
21.	Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and All UTs	11.3*
22.	All India	33.4

*Includes Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura also.

(b) The Eighth Five Year Plan envisages to further step up incomes, inter alia, through diversification of agriculture, development of horticulture, animal husbandry and fishery improvement of marketing of agricultural produce, development of post-harvest technology and agro-processing for creating value addition in agriculture. The Eighth Plan therefore, focuses not only on the creation of new jobs but also on augmentation of existing employment in terms of productivity and incomes, through suitable technological, market and institutional interventions.

*For Project formulation